



MASTER PLAN UPDATE

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LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN EARTH DAY 2003

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Since the adoption of the Los Angeles River Master Plan, the River's revitalization potential has been celebrated through Earth Day events, which have consisted of either planting or clean-up efforts. The purpose of the events is to bring awareness to the River by uniting agencies and the communities that share an interest in improving the River's environmental resources.

The Sixth Annual Los Angeles River Master Plan Earth Day event was held on Monday, April 21, 2003, at the Los Angeles River Headwaters. The event activities took place on the northwest side of the River, at the corner of Bassett Street and Owensmouth Avenue. The event was organized through a collaborative effort between Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's Office, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Army Corps of Engineers, Canoga Park High School, and L.A. Theatre Works. The Los Angeles River Headwaters is the origin of the River and is located where Bell and Calabasas Creeks join, behind Canoga Park High School.

The Master Plan proposes that the River Headwaters be developed as an interpretive site with landscaped

trails and a sculpture that would depict the River's history and water quality themes. Preparations for the event involved coordination with the agencies that will assist with developing a project in accordance with the Master Plan. L.A. Theatre Works



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2003 LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

June 13, 2003, marks the seventh year since the adoption of the Master Plan by the Board of Supervisors in 1996. Since 1996, interest in the Los Angeles River has steadily increased. Newspapers, magazines, and television media feature several stories about the Los Angeles River annually. The news topics focus on completed River development efforts, river-related accidents, and proposed River interests. Whether positive or negative, media has succeeded in bringing attention to the River on a nationwide level.

However, media fails to identify the intricate details involved with ensuring the successful development of the River Greenway. For example, on January 9, 2003, the Los Angeles Times featured an article, "Bureaucratic Shoals Slow River Effort", which summed up the river revitalization effort as being inhibited because of the multiple jurisdictions' involvement. In reality, the Master Plan Advisory Committee has ensured a collaborative effort between multiple jurisdictions which has resulted in over \$100 million in projects for the River.

To ensure that projects continue to be developed, County Public Works and the Advisory Committee have focused on resolving outstanding maintenance, liability, and security issues. At the Advisory Committee meeting on January 29, 2003, a River Maintenance Subcommittee was formed and assigned to develop a plan of action for resolving the issues by July 30, 2003.

The Master Plan's goal of developing 60 miles of a continuous greenway will continue to be implemented through the Advisory Committee's collaborative effort.

LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN EARTH DAY 2003



Mr. Steve List, of Canoga Park High School's Regional Occupational Program, leads students in a planting demonstration.

Honorable speakers with students from Canoga Park High School kick-off the groundbreaking event.



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is committed to develop the artistic sculpture at the confluence point of Bell and Calabasas Creeks. Students and staff from Canoga Park High School plan to integrate the project as part of the curriculum for their Magnet Program and Regional Occupational Program. Students will be involved with the design, construction, and maintenance of the landscape portion of the project. Overall, the Earth Day event was a groundbreaking event to announce the future plans for the River Headwaters.

The event kicked off with honorable speakers, which included Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, County Public Work's Director Jim Noyes, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Colonel Richard Thompson, Principal Denny Thompson, and L.A. Theatre Works' Producing Director Susan Loewenberg. Michael Besem, from the City of Los Angeles Councilmember Dennis Zine's office, presented certificates of appreciation to the involved agencies as part of closing

remarks.

Following speeches, Steve List of Canoga Park High School's Regional Occupational Program led a planting demonstration and participants were teamed up to plant 20 native trees and 300 shrubs. Prior to the event, County Public Works had prepared the site and developed a planting plan to facilitate the event activities. All planting was completed by lunch time, and students were treated to refreshments provided by the event's sponsors which included Corner Bakery Café, Pizza Man, and Jamba Juice.

The Earth Day event was successful due to the coordination between agencies and the assistance from sponsors and participants, which also included residents from the local community. In the following months, County Public Works will continue to coordinate the development of the future Headwaters Revitalization project to further the development of a continuous River greenway.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LA River



AD HOC COMMITTEE

In August 2002, the City of Los Angeles announced the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee which would be involved with overseeing the revitalization of the Los Angeles River's 30 miles within the City's jurisdiction. The Committee is chaired by Councilmember Ed Reyes and is comprised of Councilmembers Tom LaBonge, Eric Garcetti, Wendy Greuel, and Jan Perry. The Committee's guiding principles are based on supporting river interests, which include opportunities for community reinvestment, multipurpose river uses, protection of the river as a natural resource, and river safety education. The Committee's efforts are intended to complement the existing Los Angeles River Master Plan implementation, by providing further support and facilitation for planning efforts.

Although the Ad Hoc Committee has a term span which ends in December 2003, the Committee is targeting to research five areas of focus and present specific recommendations,

to the City Council, on how the City can continue to be involved with future river revitalization efforts. These include researching a management structure, beginning the development of a Revitalization Plan, researching funding strategies for maintenance and security, researching funding opportunities to provide river education, and evaluating opportunities for demonstration projects.

The Committee's efforts kicked off by researching background information about the Los Angeles River and by organizing several presentations about other River systems throughout the country. Recently, the Committee voted on seeking federal funding for the development of a River Revitalization Plan which would create a river zone and identify feasible projects for implementation. Also, the Committee recently passed a motion directing the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to work with County Public Works in developing signs that would be placed over the River bridges. The Master Plan Advisory Committee continues to work with the Ad Hoc Committee towards the same goal of providing greenway opportunities along the River.



LOS ANGELES RIVER GUIDELINES UPDATE

County Public Works, through the Los Angeles River Master Plan Advisory Committee, continues to lead the development of guidelines to facilitate the implementation of projects along the River. Guidelines are being drafted for signage, landscaping, and maintenance.

Comments have been compiled from the Advisory Committee for the Signage Guidelines. In addition to comments, the Advisory Committee provided recommendations for the content of warning signs which will be placed along the River.

The review of the Landscape Guidelines resulted in conflicting recommendations for planting set-backs and the planting palette. However, the Advisory Committee has reached a consensus on appropriate planting set-backs that will ensure the River's primary purpose of flood protection. The Advisory Committee is in the process of revising the recommended plant palette to exclude non-native species.

The Maintenance Manual is also in the process of being revised. The primary comments for the Manual were that it be revised for user-friendly purposes and that it be consistent with the Landscape Guidelines. The Manual revisions will parallel the Landscape Guideline's recommended plant list. Overall, the three sets of guidelines are expected to be revised or finalized by summer 2003.

3rd ANNUAL LOS ANGELES RIVER RIDE

On Sunday, May 18, 2003, the Los Angeles County Bicycle coalition held the third annual Los Angeles River Bike Ride. In two years, the number of participants has almost doubled, from 800 participants in 2001 to over 1500 participants this year. The event featured three different rides including a Kid's Ride, a 15 mile Family Ride, and a 70 mile River Ride. The event's success is due in part to the contributions from many sponsors including Supervisors Gloria Molina and Don Knabe.



Bicyclists along the River

MASTER PLAN STAKEHOLDER HIGHLIGHTS

RIVER DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Bell River Embankment Beautification Project: In October 2002, the City of Bell completed the project enhancements which were funded through the 1996 Proposition A.

Cornfield and Taylor Yard State Parks: The State Department of Parks and Recreation continues to lead community and advisory meetings to plan the development of the state parks. The parks are not expected to be developed until 2007.

Dominguez Gap and DeForest Wetlands Projects: County Public Works, in cooperation with the City of Long Beach, the Water Replenishment District, and the California Coastal Conservancy, is preparing a scope of work for a consultant design contract that will link the two projects.

Ernie's Walk: The project design has been completed and construction will begin summer 2003.

Elysian Valley River Signage: In January 2003, County Public Works received approval from the Los Angeles Department of Transportation for installing bikeway and directional signs throughout Elysian Valley. The signs are in the process of being fabricated.

Studio City Greenway: The City of Los Angeles began construction in summer 2002 and the project should be completed by fall 2003.

Valleyheart Greenway: The project design has been completed and construction will begin summer 2003.

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY'S (SMMC) RIVER EFFORTS



Unveiling plans for Confluence Park

CONFLUENCE PARK

On March 14, 2003, SMMC announced the acquisition of the first parcel of Confluence Park. Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg, State Secretary of Resources Mary Nichols, and Councilmember Ed Reyes joined Joe Edmiston of SMMC, in unveiling the proposed development of the park. Confluence Park will be located at the confluence of the Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco, near the intersection of the Golden State (I-5) and Pasadena (CA-110) freeways. Thus far, SMMC has secured \$7 million in funding for the park which will be developed in cooperation with State and local agencies.

RICHARD LILLARD OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

On March 22, 2003, SMMC dedicated the completion of the Studio City Outdoor Classroom Project as the Richard Lillard Outdoor Classroom along the south side of the Los Angeles River, at Fulton Avenue. The project complemented the Village Gardener's Adopt-A-River improvements and includes improved access to the River trails, native landscaping, interpretive displays, and an outdoor amphitheater.



Richard Lillard Outdoor Classroom

CAL POLY STUDIO 606 — LONG BEACH RIVERLINK

In January 2003, the City of Long Beach signed a contract for the San Pedro Bay Estuary Project to work with graduate students from Cal Poly Pomona's 606 Design Studio on a RiverLink program. The RiverLink program involves the development of a conceptual vision for the 9 miles of River through Long Beach. Overall, the program serves as a step towards implementing the

Open Space Element of the City's General Plan.

The Cal Poly 606 Design team will assist with extensive community outreach before proposing their RiverLink vision to the City in June 2003. Their vision will include conceptual recommendations for connecting Long Beach neighborhoods to the River and proposed improvements for the east bank of the River.

Los Angeles River Master Plan RIVER FUNDING BULLETIN

Grantor	Purpose	Deadline	Contact
AT&T Foundation	Support of environmental projects or initiatives, particularly in the areas of technology, education, volunteerism, sustainability, and clean water.	Year Round	AT&T Foundation 32 Avenue of the Americas, 6th Floor New York, NY 10013 http://www.att.com/foundation/procedure.html
Boeing Company	Supports Civic and environment needs. One-time grants are available for new programs or projects that address community needs.	October 1, 2003 Year Round	The Boeing Company P.O. Box 2515 M/C 110-SC71 Seal Beach, CA 90740 http://www.boeing.com/companyoffices/aboutus/community/guidelines.htm
Haynes Foundation	Provides grants to non-profit organizations for social science research of issues within the Los Angeles Region.	September 5, 2003 Year Round	The Haynes Foundation 888 West Sixth Street, Suite 1150 Los Angeles, CA 90017 http://www.haynesfoundation.org/apply/
The Home Depot, Inc.	Provides grants that assist at-risk youth and protect the environment.	October 15, 2003 Year Round	The Home Depot Foundation 2455 Paces Ferry Road Atlanta, GA 30339 http://www.homedepotfoundation.org
IBM	Promotes the optimal use of leading-edge technology to conduct environmental research to offer new knowledge and enhanced understanding of these important issues.	Year Round	IBM Corporation Corporate Community Relations and Public Affairs 5600 Cottle Road San Jose, CA 95193 http://www.ibm.com/ibm/ibmgives/
Ludwick Family Foundation	Provides grants to non-profit organizations for tangible items required for their operation, such as educational materials.	August 31, 2003 Year Round	Ludwick Family Foundation PO Box 1796 Glendora, CA 91740 http://www.ludwick.org/contact.html
Patagonia	Provided grants to non-profit organizations who undertake strategic steps to protect habitat, wilderness, and biodiversity.	August 31, 2003 Year Round	Shannon Rowan Patagonia, Inc. PO Box 150 Ventura, CA 93002 http://www.patagonia.com/enviro/grants_app.shtml

STATUS OF LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	COMPLETION DATE	PROPONENTS
COMPLETED PROJECTS			
Elysian Valley Gateway Park	Community Park development at Knox Avenue by the River Rangers.	1996	SMMC
Ventura Boulevard Landscape	River landscaping on south bank at Ventura Boulevard and Kelsey Street.	1996	Richard Deblasi, community resident
Great Heron Gates Park	Development of pocket park featuring river rock walls, native landscaping, and benches adjacent to the Los Angeles River at Fletcher Drive.	1997	NET
1997 Earth Day Event	Tree planting along the River at Coldwater Canyon Avenue.	April 1997	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles
City of LA, Bikeway Phase 1A	Bikeway from Riverside Drive to Los Feliz Boulevard.	September 1997	MTA, LADOT
LA River Greenway II	Tree planting and landscaping from Los Feliz Boulevard to Barclay Street.	September 1997	NET, SMMC
Golden Shore Marine Reserve	A 5-year wetlands restoration demonstration project. The study will be completed in January 2003.	January 1998	City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Dept.
1998 Earth Day Event	Tree planting at Valleyheart Drive off Whitsett Avenue.	April 1998	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles
Egret Park	Development of park adjacent to River near Barclay Street.	Spring 1998	NET, MRCA
Amtrak Project	Fencing/hydroseeding Washington Boulevard to 4th Street.	1998	Amtrak
1999 Earth Day Event	River cleanup event in Elysian Valley (at NET's rattlesnake park) and a dedication of the Great Heron Gate at the Fletcher Drive access to the River.	April 1999	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles, FoLAR, USACE, others
Los Feliz Riverwalk	Installation and maintenance of walk from Sunnynook Drive footbridge to Chevy Chase Drive.	July 1999	NET
LA River Center and Gardens	Development of 6.8 acres of former Lawry's Center into an interpretive center.	March 2000	MRCA
2000 Earth Day Event	50 sycamore and cottonwood tree planting on Wrigley Greenbelt on DeForest Avenue between Spring Street and Willow Street.	April 2000	LACDPW, City of Long Beach
Stealhead park	Development of park adjacent to River and Oros Street.	April 2000	NET, MRCA
Oso Park	Development of park at the corner of Riverside Drive and Oros Street.	April 2000	NET, MRCA
LA River County Bikeway Improvements	Bike trail improvements along Southern Avenue, from Atlantic Boulevard to Southern Avenue.	May 2000	LACDPW
Julia Russ Asmus Park	Development of park at Jaboneria Street and Shull Street.	August 2000	City of Bell Gardens, TPL, MRCA
Southern Avenue Bikeway and Park	Bikeway improvements along Southern Avenue, from Atlantic Boulevard to the River and development of park at the corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Southern Avenue.	August 2000	City of Bell Gardens, TPL, MRCA
City of LA, Bikeway Phase 1-D	Bikeway from Los Feliz Boulevard to Fletcher Drive.	August 2000	MTA, LADOT
LA River Gateway Improvements	Enhancements to access points, including landscaping and amenities to the LA County Bikeway at Gage Avenue and Florence Avenue.	November 2000	City of Bell
River Garden Park	Park depicting Los Angeles River at the River Center and Gardens.	November 2000	SMMC, MRCA
Cesar Chavez Park	Development of a multiuse park in downtown Long Beach.	November 2000	City of Long Beach

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	COMPLETION DATE	PROPONENTS
COMPLETED PROJECTS			
Dominguez Gap	Development of wetlands study.	February 2001	LACDPW
Water with Rocks Gates	Installation of decorative gates on the east side of the River, north of Fletcher Drive.	April 2001	NET
2001 Earth Day Event	Landscaping of south side of the River, between Laurel Canyon and Radford Avenue in Studio City.	April 2001	LACDPW, SD3, SCRA, TRP
Los Angeles River Bikeway/Greenway Study	Study to identify a bikeway and greenway alignment that would connect the river between downtown Los Angeles and the City of Vernon.	March 2002	NET, LACBC
South Gate Restoration Project	Study to determine restoration alternatives for the west side of the River, south of Imperial Highway.	March 2002	NET, City of South Gate
Taylor Yard Sampling	Sampling of Taylor Yard site, including preparation of groundwater/surface flow model.	March 2002	TRP
Tujunga Wash Hydrodynamic Study	Hydrodynamic Study of Tujunga Wash for potential restoration sites.	March 2002	TRP
DeForest Study	Restoration study at DeForest Nature Center and at the 6th Street site in Long Beach.	May 2002	City of Long Beach
Baum Bicycle Bridge	Construction of bikeway bridge over River at Los Feliz Boulevard.	July 2002	LADOT, MTA
Richard Lillard Outdoor Classroom	Development of River improvements with an outdoor amphitheater.	March 2003	MRCA
2003 Earth Day Event	Landscaping of north west side of the River, at Owensmouth Avenue in Canoga Park, at the Headwaters.	April 2003	LACDPW, SD3, LA Theatre Works, Army Corps, Canoga Park HS
ADOPT-A-RIVER PROJECTS			
Ernie's Walk	Ernie LaMere landscaped and maintained a 1/4-mile section along the north side of the River in Sherman Oaks (between Kester and Cedros Avenues).	September 1992	Ernie LaMere, Community resident
Village Gardeners	The Village Gardeners landscaped and maintain both sides of the River between Fulton and Coldwater Canyon Avenues.	1999	Village Gardeners
PROJECTS IN DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION			
Chinatown/Cornfields State Park	Development of 32-acre site into a State Park.		State Department of Parks and Recreation
City of Glendale's Riverwalk	Development of a Riverwalk parkway.		City of Glendale
Confluence Park	Acquisition and development of a park at the Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco confluence.		SMMC
Elysian Valley River Signage	Design, fabrication, and installation of bikeway and directional signage for the River through Elysian Valley.		LACDPW, LADOT
Ernie's Walk Expansion	Expansion of Ernie's Walk to include additional amenities and planting.		LACDPW
LA River Greenway (Taylor Yard to Sunnynook)	Landscaping of a greenway from Taylor Yard to Sunnynook. Design complete, project being implemented in phases.		LADOT, DWP, NET
LA River Headwaters Revitalization	Development of an interpretive site at the Headwaters in Canoga Park.		LACDPW, SD3, LA Theatre Works, Canoga Park High School
Maywood Riverfront Park	Development of a 7-acre park along the River at Slauson Avenue.		City of Maywood, TPL
Paramount's River Murals	Two murals completed in spring 1999 and spring 2000, and a third is being proposed.		City of Paramount
Taylor Yard State Park	Development of a State Park in Elysian Valley.		State Department of Parks and Recreation
Studio City Greenway	Landscaping of a 1/2 mile stretch on the south side of the River, between Whitsett Avenue and Laurel Canyon.		City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks
Tujunga Wash Restoration	Restoration of Tujunga Wash between Vanowen Boulevard and Oxnard Boulevard.		LACDPW, MRCA, SD3
Valleyheart Greenway	Landscaping of a 1/4 mile stretch on the south side of the River, between Laurel Canyon and Radford Avenue.		LACDPW, SD3, TRP, SCRA